



## Indiana Project Hoosier SAFE-T Region "N" – Suggested Regional Mutual Aid Policies

*adopted May 2007*

### **PURPOSE**

To establish regional suggested policies for utilization of the mutual aid resources available on the Project Hoosier SAFE-T 800MHz trunked radio system.

### **POLICIES**

1. It is recognized that identifiers, codes, signals, and numbers commonly used on a radio system may be duplicated throughout the region by different departments, agencies, and jurisdictions. Therefore, in an effort to minimize confusion during the utilization of mutual aid talkgroups, each dispatch center and field unit should strive to:
  - a. Use complete radio identification numbers (i.e. "Rising Sun PD unit 501", "Hanover PD unit 501", "Aurora Fire unit 501", etc.);
  - b. Use EXACT locations of streets, businesses, etc. (i.e. "Greensburg Wal-Mart", "Circle K at Michigan Rd and Clifty Drive", etc.); and
  - c. Use plain language and refrain from the use of codes and signals
2. It is recognized that different nomenclature may exist in the programming of radios. For the purposes of this policy, Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) talkgroup alias policy shall be utilized (i.e. "N-MA1", "Statewide MA-5", etc.).
3. Utilization of a regional and/or statewide mutual aid talkgroup will be at the discretion of any agency involved in the incident. Specific assignment for a mutual aid talkgroup may come from either a field unit or a dispatch center; however in both instances the assignment(s) should be rebroadcast by the appropriate dispatch center(s) to all units responding to/associated with the incident. IPSC policies refer to an incident commander making the decision to move radio traffic to a mutual aid talkgroup.
4. The regional MA-1 talkgroup will be utilized for call or dispatch of high priority radio traffic.
  - a. Examples of high priority radio traffic (dispatches), or 'hot calls', as agreed upon by the regional group would include, but not be limited to the following:
    - i. Pursuits (vehicle and/or foot)
    - ii. Robbery in progress or just occurred
    - iii. Hostage situations/Abductions
    - iv. Fights (with battery) in progress
    - v. Severe weather warnings or reports of imminent severe weather
    - vi. Motor vehicle accident (MVA) with injuries or 'type unknown'
    - vii. Bank, business, and residential alarms
    - viii. Shots fired incidents
    - ix. Aircraft emergencies
    - x. Any official (system user) requesting assistance

- b. It is recognized and agreed upon by the regional group that in an area where multiple units may be able to respond within a few minutes or even seconds of a dispatch, that dispatching all MVAs and alarms of any type on the MA-1 talkgroup may not be necessary. Therefore, dispatching of those types of incidents can be further defined at the discretion of the particular agency/jurisdiction.
  - c. Examples of non-priority traffic (dispatches) as agreed upon by the regional group would include, but not be limited to the following:
    - i. Speeding/Reckless Driving Vehicles
    - ii. Seat Belt Violations
    - iii. Open Container Violations
    - iv. Stolen Vehicles (unless the whereabouts is immediately known)
- 5. All dispatch centers shall actively monitor the regional MA-1 talkgroup.
- 6. All portable and mobile radios shall have the regional MA-1 talkgroup programmed into their scan list.
- 7. If an incident remains fluid and will not last longer than a few minutes, the traffic can remain on the MA-1 talkgroup. Incidents that become static or may last longer than a few minutes shall be moved to another regional mutual aid talkgroup (i.e. N-MA2 or N-MA3). Incidents that are utilizing resources, or will be utilizing resources from outside of this region, shall be moved to a statewide mutual aid talkgroup (i.e. SW-MA2, SW-MA3, etc.). When an incident becomes static, the decision to switch talkgroups may come from either a field unit or a dispatch center; however in both instances the assignment(s) should be rebroadcast by the appropriate dispatch center(s) to all units responding to/associated with the incident. IPSC policies refer to an incident commander making the decision to move radio traffic to a mutual aid talkgroup.
- 8. The NPSPAC (national) 800MHz frequencies are utilized for communications between disparate systems (i.e. a radio on Hoosier SAFE-T can talk to a radio on Ohio MARCS system). The NPSPAC conventional repeaters and simplex frequencies may be used:
  - a. In the simplex (direct) mode for communications between radios at an incident without utilizing the trunked radio system sites
  - b. In repeater mode, by having the dispatcher at the state police post activate the repeater. For this region, NPS-CALL and NPS-TAC4 are available for use through a repeater at the State Police Post.
- 9. Following the termination of an incident, the appropriate dispatch center(s) should notify all units responding to/associated with the incident to resume normal routine traffic through their normal talkgroups.
- 10. Nothing within these suggested policies would prohibit jurisdictions from utilizing their own mutual aid talkgroups (i.e. "OPS" talkgroups) within their own programming templates for details that do not involve other departments/agencies and require further interoperability.
- 11. According to IPSC policy, regional mutual aid talkgroups may be 'reserved' by an agency for temporary use for a specific event, with coordination by the specific state police district communications facility. The State Police Post will act as a 'clearinghouse' for the reservations. It is agreed upon by the regional group that if a regional mutual aid talkgroup (i.e. N-MA2 or N-MA3) has been 'reserved' by an agency for a specific event, the state police will notify all police departments, sheriff's departments, and dispatch centers throughout the region by fax of this request, in order to eliminate a jurisdiction attempting to utilize that talkgroup for a long-term event, if it has been previously reserved.

12. Each jurisdiction shall develop their own emergency policy for their own talkgroups. A regional emergency (or "Signal 100") will not be routinely dispatched unless an incident utilizing a mutual aid talkgroup warrants such.